(c) and (d) There is no proposal to restrict the production for exports of cigars.

US Restrictions on Import of Tobacco Products

1778. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA has imposed restrictions on the import of cigars, tobacco and other tobacco products from India; and

(b) if so, the details of such restrictions on exports from India to USA?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A minimum domestic content requirement of 75% was prescribed in US legislation governing cigarette production in USA, in 1993.

Export of Plantation Crops

1779. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the targets set for export of plantation crops during the last three years;

(b) how far these targets have been achieved; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to boost export of plantation crop?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) COFFEE targets fixed for export of coffee during the last three years were as follows:

Year	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (Rs./crores)
1991-92	120,000	400
1992-93	120,000	400
1993-94	110,000	460

The actual exports of coffee during the last three years were as follows:

Year	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (Rs./crores)
1991-92	111 452	349.01
1992-93	113.602	381 31
1993-94	135 608	581.79

In order to boost export of coffee, in 1994 a Free Sale Quota (FSQ) up to 50% of production has been granted to the coffee growers under which the producer can sell his produce both in domestic and export market. The Coffee Board has also combined the domestic and export auctions so that export requirements can be adequately met.

TEA: The target set for export of tea during hte last three years vis-a-vis the achievements thereof are as follows:

Quantity (M. Kgs.)
Value (Rs./crores)

Year	Targets Quantity	Targets Value	Achievements Quantity	Achievements Value
1991-92	210	1200	216.45	1212.27
1992-93	210	1200	180.69	1058.70
1993-94	210	1200	*161.17	*1080.10

*Estimated.

In order to step up export of Indian tea discussions have been held with Russian authorities requesting them to source their requirements of tea from India under debt repayment route. According to the information available, Russian authorities have allocated around US $ 50 million to various importing organisations in that country for import of Indian tea. Efforts are on to sort out bottle-necks in export of tea to Iran.

Besides these, other steps which are being taken to boost exports of tea include promotional campaigns through Tea Board's offices abroad. It consists of (i) participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness towards various unique characteristics of Indian tea, (iii) media campaign to popularise Indian tea through Tea Board marketing symbol, and (iv) support to various foreign brands containing Indian tea. A part of the expenditure incurred by importers for promotional campaigns is met from tea Board budget.

Tea Board have also undertaken Darjeeling and Assam logo campaign in U. K. to popularise classic Indian teas. Recently the brand promotion scheme has been revived to give a boost to exports of value added teas.